

# Message to Constituents

## U.S. Congressman Elijah E. Cummings

Representing the 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congressional District of Maryland

November 30, 2004  
<http://www.mail.house.gov/cummings>

1632 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4741 (tel.) (202) 225-3178 (fax)



Dear Constituent:

It is both a privilege and an honor to represent you in the United States Congress. While serving you, I will continue my outreach efforts to inform you of legislative action. I welcome your advice. Government "by the people" is the cornerstone of my legislative philosophy.

To better serve you closer to home, I invite you to visit or contact one of my district offices, listed on the following pages. In Howard County, my staff and I make regular outreach visits at various community centers. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Elijah E. Cummings

### **\$45 Million in Federal Appropriations for the Baltimore Region**

Congressman Cummings has secured approximately \$45,370,500 in federal appropriations for fiscal year 2005 to benefit Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Howard County.

The monies were allocated to the district through the *Omnibus Appropriations Act*, H.R. 4818 (Also referred to as Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2005). Congressman Cummings joined 343 of his colleagues in supporting the bill, which passed the House on November 20<sup>th</sup> in a 344 - 51 vote.

The bill has also passed the Senate and is expected to be sent to the President shortly.

"I am pleased that despite tight budget constraints, I was able to fight for and secure funds to help our schools, hospitals, transportation, military, homeland security and other infrastructure programs in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District," Congressman Cummings said.

In obtaining the funds, Congressman Cummings worked closely with House Appropriations leaders as well as Maryland's U.S. Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski.

The 20 appropriations projects, by recipient and descending order of funds appropriated are as follows:

*(Please see the Chart on the next page)*

**7<sup>th</sup> District Federal Appropriations Projects Secured by  
Congressman Cummings for FY '05**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
1.	Light Rail Double Track	\$29,000,000	Expand light rail track
2.	University of Maryland Medical System	\$4,000,000	Operating Room of the Future
3.	Morgan State University	\$3,000,000	Army Knowledge Management Fusion Center at the Army Research Laboratory
4.	Maryland Job Access Reverse Commute	\$2,700,000	Commuting options
5.	180° Inc.	\$1,000,000	Cold weather clothing and equipment for the Marine Corp
6.	City of Baltimore	\$1,000,000	Intelligent Transportation System
7.	East Baltimore Development, Inc.	\$1,000,000	Redeveloping activities in E. Baltimore
8.	City of Baltimore Employment Connections	\$400,000	Ex-offenders reentry program
9.	Howard County Transit Repair Facility	\$496,000	Repair buses
10.	Baltimore Zoo	\$350,000	Renovations to the Maryland House at the Zoo
11.	Ujima Demonstration project: Partnership between Baltimore City Health Dept., Maryland Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Johns Hopkins	\$340,000	Mobile health van to improve access to HIV/STD prevention services
12.	Howard Community College	\$300,000	Expanding nursing school programs to address shortage
13.	City of Baltimore	\$300,000	Central garage relocation
14.	Associated Catholic Charities	\$250,000	Build a new facility for "My Sister's Place Women's Center" and "Our Daily Bread Employment Center"
15.	City of Baltimore	\$250,000	Drug treatment programs
16.	University of Maryland at Baltimore	\$250,000	Nursing institute for faculty development
17.	Baltimore City Public Schools	\$240,000	Teacher recruitment and training
18.	Baltimore City Public Schools	\$200,000	Restore school libraries
19.	Howard County Government	\$149,000	Homeland security and law enforcement technologies.
20.	Baltimore School for the Arts	\$145,500	Building upgrades

## **Congressman Cummings Votes for Improved Special Education Bill**

On November 19, Congressman Cummings voted for the passage of the *Reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) H.R. 1350. The bipartisan bill guarantees that special-needs children are able to obtain a free public education in the least restrictive environment. The legislation is expected to be signed by the President before the end of the year.

Originally enacted in 1975, the reauthorization bill provides for more accurate methods of identifying children who have disabilities, getting help to students earlier, boosting discipline in classrooms, reducing paperwork burdens for teachers, and cutting down on litigation between parents and school districts.

“The legislation will help uplift children who have special needs and support their strengths and abilities, rather than isolate them because of disabilities,” Congressman Cummings said.

While Congressman Cummings supported the reauthorization bill, he will continue to push the Republican leadership and the Administration to fully fund the bill. The original bill called for the federal government to pay 40 percent of a state’s excess cost of educating children with disabilities. To date, this funding goal has not been met and the current federal share of the cost is only 19 percent.

The recently-passed legislation calls for reaching the 40 percent funding level by 2011.

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## **Congressman Cummings Votes Against Raising Debt Limit without Fiscal Responsibility**

In a close vote, Congressman Cummings joined 203 House Members in voting against S. 2986, a bill that will now raise the federal debt by \$800 billion.

Signed by the President on Nov. 19, the act allows the federal debt to reach \$8.18 trillion, which is \$2.4 trillion more than the debt limit in 2001.

“I voted against this bill because it allows irresponsible spending of taxpayers’ money,” Congressman Cummings said. “The bill allows the federal government to spend money whether or not there is sufficient money in the U.S. treasury to control the cost. It is as if the government is increasing its limit on its credit card, without having the funds to cover the costs.”

In order to avert a surge in the national debt, Congressman Cummings voted for an amendment to this

act that would have restored a pay-as-you-go discipline to federal budgeting. Under these rules, cuts in taxes or increases in entitlement spending must be offset by tax increases or spending cuts elsewhere in the budget.

In the 1990’s, the federal budget had a pay-as-you-go requirement that turned a \$290 billion budget deficit in 1992 into budget surpluses in 1998, 1999, and 2000.

However, this year, the Republican-led House rejected this responsible spending provision.

“This (debt increase) act will pose a tremendous tax burden on millions of American families and future generations,” Congressman Cummings said.

According to analysis conducted by the House Democratic Leadership, raising the debt limit to \$800 billion will result in American families paying an extra \$9,400 a year in “debt tax” by 2014. (When taxpayers pay debt tax, their money goes toward paying off the debt rather than investing in government programs).

“Our nation’s growing debt will cause our children and our grandchildren to be overtaxed for the rest of their lives,” Congressman Cummings said. “Their taxes will pay for the interest on our debt instead of keeping our military the strongest in the world, strengthening Social Security, or improving education for our children.”

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## **Congressman Cummings Supports Bills to Help Veterans**

As the 108th Congress comes to a close, Congressman Cummings joined his House colleagues in passing three bills aimed at improving veterans’ benefits. Passed by voice vote, the legislation does the following:

1. Enhances education, medical, and employment benefits for veterans and their families.
2. Improves pay for doctors and dentists who treat veterans. This provision intends to improve recruiting and retention of top quality doctors and dentists to care for the nation’s sick and disabled veterans.
3. Increases the authorization for the homeless assistance program and eliminates veterans’ co-payments for hospice care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“After putting their lives on the line for this nation, our veterans deserve to be honored with low-cost health care, education benefits, and relief from paying disabled veterans’ taxes,” Congressman Cummings said.

## Save the Date:

If you are a college-bound student or a parent of a college-bound student, don't forget to attend:

### Congressman Cummings' Annual College Fair

Date:

Monday, December 6, 2004  
5:50 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Location:

Atholton High School  
Columbia, Maryland

Participants will be able to:

- Find out about various college scholarship and grant opportunities.
- Ask financial aid representatives about applying for federal aid.
- Talk to college admission counselors about tips for getting into their dream college.
- Learn about various academic programs.

#### Congressman Cummings's District Offices

**1010 Park Avenue, Suite 105**  
**Baltimore, MD 21201**  
(410) 685-9199 and (410) 685-9399 fax

**754 Frederick Road**  
**Catonsville, Maryland 21228**  
(410) 719-8777 and (410) 455-0110 fax

#### Howard County Outreach Centers

**First Monday of the Month:**  
Glenwood Library, 2350 Route 97  
Cooksville, MD 21723  
**Hours: 4:00PM - 6:00PM or by appointment**

**Second Monday of the Month:**  
Howard County Central Library  
10375 Little Patuxent Pkwy.  
Columbia, MD 21044  
**Hours: 4:00PM - 6:00PM or by appointment**

**Second Wednesday of the Month:**  
Savage Library, 9525 Durness Lane  
Laurel, MD 20723  
**Hours: 4:00PM - 6:00PM or by appointment**

**Third Monday of the Month:**  
Florence Bain Senior Center  
5470 Ruth Keeton Way  
Columbia, MD 21044  
**Hours: 9:00AM - 11 AM or by appointment**

**Fourth Monday of the Month:**  
Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
**Hours: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM or by appointment**